

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 11248 171652Z

73

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

----- 010562

R 171556Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2344

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2741

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 11248

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 10756 (NOTAL)

1. A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FEBRUARY-MARCH MEETING OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, ACCORDING TO LABOR SOURCES HERE.

2. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) IS UNEASY ABOUT THE MEETING AND
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 EC BRU 11248 171652Z

SIMILAR INITIATIVES FROM THE COMMUNISTS, AND HAS PUT THE WHOLE SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT ICFTU EXECU-

TIVE BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 24 TO 26 (SEE REFTEL).

3. LIKE A SIMILAR PAN-EUROPEAN MEETING HELD IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY 1975, THIS ONE IS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN WORKER REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. ALTHOUGH THE ICFTU IS NOT SPONSORING OR CO-SPONSORING THE MEETING, ALMOST EVERY ICFTU AFFILIATE IN EUROPE (EXCEPT THE FRENCH FO) IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND, AS ARE AFFILIATES OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR.

4. A PAPER BEING PREPARED BY THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT WILL REVIEW THE HISTORY OF SUCH EAST-WEST LABOR GATHERINGS, AND WHILE WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE DRAFT, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY TWO INFORMED SOURCES THAT THE PAPER WILL COME DOWN ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE DEBATE OVER WHETHER SUCH CONTACTS ARE USEFUL. JOHN VANDERVEKEN, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ICFTU, COMMENTED TO MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT IN HIS VIEW THE COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES HAVE "COME TO THE POINT OF BEING A SERIOUS DANGER TO THE RAISON D'ETRE OF THE ICFTU."

5. VANDERVEKEN THINKS THE PAPER WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE ICFTU BOARD AND NONE AT ALL ON PLANS TO HOLD THE PAN-EUROPEAN MEETING IN GENEVA. BECAUSE OF VIGOROUS SUPPORT FOR SUCH MEETINGS FROM THE BRITISH TUC (JACK JONES IN PARTICULAR) AND THE SCANDINAVIANS THROUGH THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (LED BY NORWAY ON THIS MATTER), THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT COULD NOT PREVENT THE HOLDING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO VANDERVEKEN, BUT HAS FOLLOWED A STRATEGY OF TRYING TO MINIMIZE ITS IMPACT BY:

A) KEEPING IT TO A TECHNICAL RATHER THAN A POLITICAL SUBJECT: THE THEME WILL BE "HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE JOB.."

B) KEEPING IT "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK" OF A MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION, THE ILO -- THE CONFERENCE'S CONVENERS ARE THE FOUR EUROPEAN WORKER MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY, MUHR OF WESTERN GERMANY, PIMENOV
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 EC BRU 11248 171652Z

OF THE USSR, PLANT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND SUNDE OF NORWAY.

C) KEEPING IT FROM ADOPTING ANY SIGNIFICANT FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE PROPOSAL THE EAST IS PUSHING TO SET UP AN EAST-WEST TRADE UNION SECRETARIAT.

5. EVEN WITHIN SUCH BOUNDS, ACCORDING TO VANDERVEKEN, THE MEETING MUST BE CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT PLUS FOR THE COMMUNISTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER

INITIATIVES THEY ARE TAKING ON THE WORLD LABOR FRONT, SUCH AS OVERTURES TO VARIOUS ICFTU-RELATED TRADE SECRETARIATS AND THE PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF THE FRENCH CGT TO ENTER THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC).

6. VANDERVEKEN BELIEVES THAT, FROM THE WAY THE CGT IS HANDLING ITSELF, IT SEEMS READY TO MAKE ALMOST ANY CONCESSION, EVEN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU), IN ORDER TO ENTER THE ETUC AND THUS TRY TO DIVIDE THE FREE LABOR FORCES.

7. PLEASE PROTECT VANDERVEKEN AS SOURCE OF VIEWS QUOTED IN THIS MESSAGE. HINTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU11248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760429-0829
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761139/aaaabhdi.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 10756
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST LABOR INITIATIVES
TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006